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doors and teach her what nature really is. An attempt to meet this need is to be made during the summer by the Rhode Island College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, at Kingston, R. I., where a summer school of nature study will be held from July 5-19, provided forty applicants are enrolled before June 1. The program is rather ambitious for the short time allowed, as it includes physiography, botany, zoölogy, and horticulture. But as the work is to be chiefly in the field, if it is skillfully conducted, no doubt most teachers will be able to get from it considerable instruction and a great deal of inspiration for future work.

Vertebrate Ancestry.—The recent attempt by Roule (C. R., October, 1898) to seek the ancestry of the vertebrates in *Actinotrocha*, it seems to us, is the most ingenious and the most improbable of any view yet advanced. It demands that the mouth of *Actinotrocha* becomes the vertebrate neurenteric canal, while the vent forms the vertebrate mouth.

New "American Anthropologist."—It is with genuine pleasure that students of anthropology greet the new *American Anthropologist*, the first number of which appeared in March. The new journal replaces the periodical that appeared under the same name for the last ten years. The change is most welcome and promising. The old *American Anthropologist* served a good purpose. It was the official journal of the Washington Anthropological Society; it became the forum of smaller contributions to anthropology, and it stimulated and preserved many efforts of value, but its scope was too restricted. It was not a fair representative of the science of anthropology in this country, and could not keep up with its advancement. Thus it became evident that either the *American Anthropologist* had to undergo a radical change, or that a new, larger, more representative journal had to be established.

The first practical efforts for the establishing of a new journal of anthropology were due to Dr. Franz Boas, of New York, and Professor Wm. J. McGee, of Washington, who were soon seconded by other anthropologists of prominence. Dr. Boas formulated a definite proposition and brought it before Section H of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, at its winter meeting in Ithaca, in December, 1897. The proposition aimed rather at a metamorphosis of the established journal than at beginning a new periodical, the change taking place with the consent and coöperation of the Washington Anthropological Society. Section H of the Ameri-

can Association supported the proposition, and, following the report of its committee, at the annual meeting of the Association in Boston, in 1898, voted its approval of establishing the new journal. The coöperation of the Washington Anthropological Society was secured, and it was decided to discontinue the old journal and allow the new, more efficient periodical to take its place. By almost common consent of the subscribers, the new journal was to retain the name of the old one.

As to the aims of the new *American Anthropologist*, we cannot do better than quote its editors: "The editors aim to make the journal a medium of communication between students of all branches of anthropology. The contents will embrace (1) high grade papers pertaining to all parts of the domain of anthropology, the technical papers to be limited in number and length; (2) briefer contributions on anthropologic subjects, including discussion and correspondence; (3) reviews of anthropologic literature; (4) a current bibliography of anthropology; and (5) minor notes and news." The purpose of the *American Anthropologist* will be "to disseminate as widely as practicable, for the use of scholars and of students, the results of anthropologic investigations."

The Editorial Board of the new journal is composed of Messrs. Frank Baker, W. H. Holmes, and J. W. Powell, Washington; Franz Boas, New York; Daniel G. Brinton, Philadelphia; F. W. Putnam and Miss Alice C. Fletcher, Cambridge; Geo. A. Dorsey, Chicago; and Geo. M. Dawson, Ottawa, with F. W. Hodge, of Washington, as the managing editor and secretary.

It is evident that the establishing of this new, more efficient journal marks a real progress in American anthropology.